

REMARKS:

Claims 44 and 110-112 are presented for examination, with claims 44, 110 and 111 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 44 and 110-112 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,479,472 ("Coplon '472) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,682,310 ("Lund et al. '310).

It is respectfully submitted that applicant does not necessarily concur with the Examiner in the Examiner's analysis of the claims of the present application and the Coplon '472 and Lund et al. '310 disclosures.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, claims 44, 110 and 111 have been amended hereby to more particularly point out the features of the invention directed to a timepiece mounted to the inside surface of the closure such that: (a) the timepiece moves with the closure as the closure moves from the open position to the closed position; (b) the timepiece is disposed outside of the first interior space and is visible when the closure is in the open position; and (c) the timepiece is disposed within the first interior space and is not visible when the closure is in the closed position.

It is believed that these features, as claimed, are neither shown nor suggested by Coplon '472 and Lund et al. '310.

In this regard, it is noted that the digital watch of Lund et al. '310 is mounted to the fixed, central portion of the billfold (rather than one of the two hinged end portions). Thus, even if one were to try to combine Lund et al. '310 with Coplon '472 as suggested by the Examiner, the disclosure of Lund et al. '310 would point towards mounting the digital watch to the body of the accessories case of Coplon '472, rather than to the closure flap 22. Of course, such mounting to the body rather than to the closure flap 22 would be in marked contrast to the arrangement presently recited, wherein the timepiece moves with the closure as the closure moves from the open position to the closed position.

Further, even if the Examiner were to assert that the disclosures of Coplon '472 and Lund et al. '310 were to somehow teach or suggest that the digital watch be mounted to the inner surface of the closure flap 22 of Coplon '472, it is respectfully submitted that such a

configuration would still not result in the claimed device since the present claims explicitly recite that the timepiece is disposed within the first interior space and is not visible when the closure is in the closed position. In contrast, a digital watch mounted to the inner surface of the closure flap 22 of Coplon '472 would not be disposed within the interior space (i.e., pocket 14 of Coplon '472) but, rather, outside the interior space (see, e.g., cross-section Figs. 4 and 6).

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 44 and 110-112 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coplon '472 in view of Lund et al. '310 has been overcome.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection raised by the Examiner in the December 23, 2003 Office Action has been overcome and that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance.

Finally, it is noted that this Amendment is fully supported by the originally filed application and thus, no new matter has been added. For this reason, the Amendment should be entered.

More particularly, support for the amendments to the claims is found in claims 42, 44 and 110-112, as filed; at page 7, line 28 to page 8, line 11, as filed; in Figs. 22 and 23 (i.e., Figs. 26 and 27, as filed); and throughout the specification.

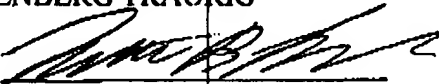
Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

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